



Illinois Department of Natural Resources

One Natural Resources Way Springfield, Illinois 62702-1271
www.dnr.illinois.gov

Bruce Rauner, Governor

Wayne A. Rosenthal, Acting Director

January 23, 2015

William Rickert, President
RHMG Engineers, Inc.
975 Campus Drive
Mundelein, IL 60060

RE: Wauconda Water Main Improvements - Ridge Street
IDNR Project #1508181
County: Lake

Dear Mr. Rickert:

This letter concerns the consultation for installation of a water main in Lake County, Township 44 North, Range 9 East, Section 25. This project was submitted for consultation in accordance with the *Illinois Endangered Species Protection Act* [520 ILCS 10/11], the *Illinois Natural Areas Preservation Act* [525 ILCS 30/17], Title 17 *Illinois Administrative Code* Part 1075, the *Interagency Wetland Policy Act* [20 ILCS 830], and 17 *Ill. Adm. Code* Part 1090.

The water main will be installed using a combination of open cut and horizontal directional drilling. Horizontal directional drilling will be used in highly congested areas and in sensitive environmental areas, including wetlands; open cut will be used in all other areas. Project specifications will contain a detailed frac-out contingency plan.

Wetland Review

The Department has concluded that adverse effects to wetlands are unlikely. However, because sensitive wetland areas are in the vicinity, if you directionally drill along this stretch, the Department recommends you not only have a frac-out plan, but also have clean-up equipment and supplies readily available on-site. The Wetland Review under 17 *Ill. Adm. Code* 1090 is terminated.

Consultation

The project will require open trenching for water main installation. The state-endangered Blanding's Turtle (*Emydoidea blandingii*) is known to occur in the vicinity of the project area. The Department has reviewed the project and concluded that the listed species could be adversely affected by the construction. To avoid impact to this species the Department recommends that you:

- Educate personnel working on site about Blanding's Turtle. Post photos of juvenile and adult Blanding's at a central location.

- Install exclusionary fencing (making sure it is dug into the ground) to prevent turtles from entering construction areas. Females start basking in April and hatchlings can still be active and traveling back to wetlands until October
- Inspect the fencing daily to ensure it remains properly installed and to check if turtles are present.
- Make sure trenches and excavated areas are covered each evening to avoid trapping any amphibians or reptiles. Routinely inspect trenches and excavations before starting work each day to assure no turtles have become trapped within them.
- If a Blanding's Turtle is encountered, crews should stop work and allow the turtle to move out of the way or call IDNR at 815-675-2386. Ext. 216.

A portion of this stretch will be near a section of Wauconda Bog Illinois Natural Areas Inventory site, which provides habitat for numerous state-listed fish species (in Bang's Lake) and bird and plant species (in the wetland/lake east of the road). To prevent adverse effects, the Department recommends that you:

- monitor erosion control measures to ensure no siltation enters the lake or wetland,
- locate staging areas away from the lake and wetland, and
- power wash equipment before work begins to ensure that invasive weed seeds will not be introduced into the INAI site.

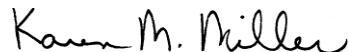
Consultation under *17 Ill. Adm. Code Part 1075* is completed. In accordance with 17 Ill. Adm. Code 1075.40(h), please notify the Department of your decision regarding these recommendations.

This consultation is valid for two years unless new information becomes available that was not previously considered; the proposed action is modified; or additional species, essential habitat, or Natural Areas are identified in the vicinity. If the project has not been implemented within two years of the date of this letter, or any of the above listed conditions develop, a new consultation is necessary.

The natural resource review reflects the information existing in the Illinois Natural Heritage Database at the time of the project submittal, and should not be regarded as a final statement on the site being considered, nor should it be a substitute for detailed site surveys or field surveys required for environmental assessments. If additional protected resources are encountered during the project's implementation, you must comply with the applicable statutes and regulations. Also, note that termination does not imply IDNR's authorization or endorsement of the proposed action.

Please contact me if you have questions regarding this review.

Sincerely,



Karen Miller
Impact Assessment Section
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